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To: mlr1000@cam.ac.uk (Professor Michael Redhead)
From: Tian Yu Cao <tycao@bu.edu>
Subject: Re: Michael Berry
X-UIDL: d1e4d73c9289db435b682b291be85ca6

Dear Michael,

In terms of Programme, I think we have already have very specific to offer: except Haag and Connes, all other major speakers (Jackiw, Isham, Wilson) have confirmed that they will come and talk (Of course, Weinberg still retains some room for himself, but this is mainly for getting more special treatment. Also, Peter has a second cast: If Weinberg really cannot come, he will ask Howard Georgi to talk on effective field theory sharing the fifth session with Polchinski). But of course, you and Jeremy are in a better position to make judgment about the feasibility of organizing the conference within 9 months. My view is this: (i) we have a quite solid programme already; (ii) On my part, I am not worrying about 4,000 pounds (one way or the other I will get it somewhere: either from NSF or Mellon Foundation, or from BU); (iii) postponing to 1998 will give us more time for Cambridge conference, but will squeeze the time for Peter's next conference, which he plans to organize in 1999. (Of course he can also postpone it for 2000, but I am not sure about his research agenda -- he is working on a big project on effective field theory and string -- and timing. Perhaps Trinity would not be very rigid on booking.

If the only problem with the conference is money, do you think when the financial situation becomes clearer, for example, within a couple of months, we still can have the conference in Sept. 1997?

I will discuss with you soon.

Best,

Tinayu

At 10:09 PM 12/13/96 +0000, you wrote:

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>Dear Tian Yu
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>Thanks for your message about the Registration fee. I have been in touch
>again with Trinity, and they want a deposit of £500 by 1st January to
>confirm the booking for next September. I have discussed the situation
>with Jeremy, and we feel that there is NO WAY we can raise such a large sum
>so soon. After all we don't have a list of agreed speakers (agreed to speak
>that is) and we cannot expect to raise any money until we have something
>very specific to offer in the way of the programme. In the circumstances we
>have no option but to defer the conference until 1998. Once you have raised
>your £4000, we will have something solid in the bank to pay out deposits,
>etc. But we can't bank-roll the conference with money we don't actually
>have! The bottom line is that we need 18 months, rather than 9 months, to
>get everything properly organized. So I propose that we reset the date for
>18th-20th September 1998. I would much rather wait a bit longer and make the
>whole thing a real success than go off at half-cock so to speak.

>With best wishes

>Michael

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